BIOGRAPHIES FOR SPEAKERS OF
THE GENEVA ENERGY CONVERSATIONS

Setting the Scene

Philippe Burrin, Director, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Professor Philippe Burrin became director of the Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI) in 2004. Prior to his appointment at HEI, Professor Burrin taught at the University of Geneva from 1985-88, and was appointed Professor of International Relations at HEI in 1988. Professor Burrin earned a PhD in International Relations from the HEI and his teaching and research interests are in the fields of history of international relations, with a special focus on ideologies, international comparison of political movements and regimes, migrants and refugees, wars and military occupations, as well as mass violence and genocide. Professor Burrin has taught in various academic centres and universities over the last ten years. He is also the author of several books, most of which have been translated.

Derek Eaton, Executive Director, the Centre for International Environmental Studies.

Dr. Eaton is Executive Director of CIES, responsible for oversight of research projects. He worked from 2009 to 2011 with UNEP’s Economics and Trade Branch. From 1998 to 2009, he was a researcher with LEI, part of the Wageningen University & Research Centre in the Netherlands. Previously, Derek Eaton has worked as an economist for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and also at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). He has worked extensively in a number of Sub-Saharan African countries and collaborating with and leading teams in East and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Eaton holds an MSc degree in Environmental Economics from the University College London, a diploma from the University of Ottawa, and a BSc in Economics, Quantitative Methods from the University of Toronto. Dr. Eaton has done his PhD at Wageningen University, Netherlands.

Michael Møller, Acting Director-General, UNOG

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 5 November 2013 the appointment of Michael Møller of Denmark as Acting Head, United Nations Office at Geneva. Mr. Møller will replace Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The Secretary-General is grateful for Mr. Tokayev’s outstanding contribution and commitment in spearheading the Organization’s work.

Mr. Møller brings to the position a wealth of experience, having served for more than 30 years as an international civil servant in the United Nations. Most recently he was Executive Director of the Kofi Annan Foundation from 2008 to 2011. Prior to this, he served as the Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Cyprus (2006-2008) and Director for Political, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Affairs in the Office of the Secretary-General (2001-2006), also serving concurrently as Deputy Chief of Staff for the last two years of that period. Between 1997 and 2001 he was the Head of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs at UN headquarters in New York. He served in different capacities in Iran, Mexico, Haiti and Geneva, where he started his career in 1979 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Born in 1952 in Copenhagen, Mr. Møller completed a Master’s course in International Relations at Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom.

H.E. Thomas Fitschen, Ambassador, Germany

Dr. Thomas Fitschen is a lawyer by training and currently the Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the Office of the United Nations (UN) and the other International Organizations in Geneva.

He joined the German Foreign Service in 1990, with assignments, inter alia, as the legal adviser to the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN in New York and as Head of the Division for General Assembly Affairs as well as Deputy Head of the Foreign Office’s Task Force Rule of Law Promotion.
Putting the Genie Back: 2 degrees will be harder than we think

Moderator:

Scott Foster, the Director of UNECE's Sustainable Energy Division.

Scott Foster has more than 35 years' experience in the energy field, having worked extensively with governments and international organizations on energy policy, market design and regulation, climate change, investment promotion, and renewables technology and policy.

Before founding Nomad Energy Consulting in 2004, Mr. Foster was Vice President of global regulatory affairs with AES Corporation, Senior Director for global power with Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA), and senior expert in the energy diversification division of the International Energy Agency.

Mr. Foster holds a BA from Dartmouth College, an MS in Civil Engineering from Stanford University, and an MBA from UC Berkeley.

Panellists:

David Hone, Chief Climate Change Adviser, Shell

Mr. Hone, being the Chief Climate Change Advisor to Shell, takes on the subject of climate change in a frank and open discussion built on more than 30 years in the energy industry and in the field of climate change.

He joined Shell in 1980 after graduating as a Chemical Engineer from the University of Adelaide in South Australia. He initially worked as a refinery engineer in Australia and the Netherlands, before becoming the supply economist at the Shell refinery in Sydney. In 1989 Mr. Hone transferred to London to work as an oil trader in Shell Trading and held a number of positions in that organisation. Since 2001 he has been representing Shell externally in a wide variety of forums.

He was the Chairman of the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) from 2011 to 2013, a global business organisation of some 140 companies and remains a Board member. He is also on the Board of the Washington based Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) and collaborates with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

He is the leading author of a number of climate change publications.

Christian Friis Bach

On 9 July 2014, the Secretary-General appointed Mr Christian Friis Bach of Denmark as the next Executive Secretary of UNECE.

Mr Bach brings to the position a combination of deep knowledge in international economy and development affairs coupled with innovative and results-oriented leadership.

Mr Bach came from a position as Member of the Danish Parliament and Head of the Parliamentarian Group for the Danish Social/Liberal Party. He previously served as Denmark’s Minister for Development Cooperation (2011-2013) and Special Advisor to the European Union Commission for the United Nations Global Sustainability Panel (2010-2011). He is Honorary Professor of International Economics and Development at the University of Copenhagen (2009-2014) and has been Associate Professor in International Economics and Development Economics, the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University (1999-2005).

Mr Bach has a long history with civil society, notably as the International Director for the DanChurchAid (2005-2010) and as Chairman of the Danish Association for International Cooperation (1997-2001). He also has private sector experience from running a start-up company and has worked as a journalist at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr Bach holds a Ph.D. in International Economics (1996), a MSc in Agronomy (1992) from the Royal Danish Agricultural University in Copenhagen and a supplementary degree in Journalism from the Danish School of Media and Journalism.

Born in 1966, Mr Bach is married and has three children. The family lives on a small farm outside of Copenhagen.
Tom Murley, Director, Renewable Energy, HgCapital

Mr. Murley serves as the Director, Head of the Renewable Energy Investments, and Non-Executive Director of HgCapital. Mr. Murley joined HgCapital in 2004 and has more than 20 years of experience in providing equity finance to the United States and European conventional and renewable power sectors. He is responsible for co-investment capital for European renewable energy projects. He was formerly co-head of Allianz Private Equity's renewable energy team and previously with the EIF Group. He has been a Non-Executive Director of UK Green Investment Bank since October 2012. He serves as the Chairman of the British Venture Capital and Private Equity Associations board on Sustainable Energy, Environment and Technologies. He also sits on the Economics and Markets Committees of the British and Swedish Wind Energy Association. Mr. Murley has degrees from Northwest University and Fordham University School of Law.

Peter Wooders, Group Director Energy, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Mr. Wooders is the IISD's Group Director of Energy. He has 20 years’ experience across the energy sector, with a particular specialization in electricity generation. Mr. Wooder currently contributes to various IISD’s programs, including Trade & Climate Change, notably Border Carbon Adjustment and the GHG impacts of possible Environmental Goods & Services agreements; Global Subsidies Initiative (fossil fuels and bio-fuels); Post-2012 Architecture of GHG Agreements; Carbon Markets and Climate Change Adaptation. Initially trained as an engineer, Peter first worked in technology research with British Gas. He then spent 15 years as an Energy & Environment consultant, working on issues from energy efficiency in Hungary to the cost-benefit analysis of clean air policies in Egypt to the economics of nuclear waste disposition in the UK.

Hans B. Püttgen, Senior Director, Nanyang Technological University, Energy Research Institute, Singapore

Prof. Püttgen joined NTU in the late 2013 as Professor of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He also holds the position of Senior Director, Energy Research Institute at NTU (ERI@N) where he leads the Renewable Energy Integration Demonstrator in Singapore (REIDS) initiative. He is also a member of the CORE, Commission which advises the Swiss Federal Office of Energy on energy issues and funding priorities. Prof. Püttgen retired from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) in July 2013 where he held the Chaire de Gestion of Energy Systems Management. Before arriving at EPFL, Prof. Püttgen was Georgia Power Professor and Vice Chair for External Affairs in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He graduated from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne with the degree in Electrical Engineering. He holds graduate degrees in Business Administration and Management from the University of Lausanne. His PhD, in Electrical Engineering, is from the University of Florida.

Joelle Noailly, Research Fellow and Programme Lead, Innovation and Sustainable Growth, Centre for Environmental Studies, Graduate Institute Geneva

Ms. Noailly has research interests in green innovation, climate change policy, co-evolution of economic and ecological systems, role of social norms in managing common-pool resources and energy technologies. Ms. Noailly holds a Ph.D in environmental economics from the Free University of Amsterdam, a M.Phil from the Tinbergen Institute in Amsterdam, Netherlands, a M.Sc. from the University of Delaware, USA, and is a graduate in international economics from the University of Lyon, France.